



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOMALIAN MAN, TAXI DRIVER, INDICTED FOR \$85,000 BANK FRAUD, CREDIT CARD FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Somali man has been indicted by a federal grand jury in a scheme to defraud four banks of approximately \$85,000. He was also indicted for using a credit card number he obtained while working as a taxicab driver to attempt to illegally wire \$8,000 to the United Arab Emirates.

Abdi M. Mahumud, 25, with addresses in both Independence and Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an eight-count indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on Feb. 25, 2004. That indictment was unsealed and made public today upon **Mahumud's** arrest and initial court appearance. **Mahumud**, who is from Somalia, is a lawful permanent resident alien in the United States, pending application for naturalization.

Bank Fraud

The indictment alleges that **Mahamud** engaged in a scheme to defraud four separate federally insured banks between Oct. 23, 1998 and Dec. 28, 2001. According to the indictment, **Mahamud** attempted to obtain approximately \$85,017 from Commerce Bank, Central Bank, Country Club Bank, and Bank of America, all in Kansas City, through materially false and fraudulent pretenses and representations.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Mahamud** opened a new bank account at Central Bank on June 4, 2001. On July 16, 2001, he allegedly deposited a non-negotiable home equity loan solicitation designed to look like a check payable to **Mahamud** in the amount of \$67,017. On July 18, 2001, the indictment alleges, **Mahamud** withdrew a total of \$6,800 in cash from that account, and on the same day wrote a check to himself for \$25,000 on the Central Bank account. **Mahamud** allegedly presented this check to Norbank in North Kansas City for the purpose of opening another bank account. This check was returned by Central Bank as

insufficient funds.

Between July 16 and 19, 2001, **Mahamud** allegedly attempted to use the account balance remaining in the Central Bank account to purchase or collateralize the purchase of a vehicle from KC Autoplex. On July 19, 2001, **Mahamud** was confronted by bank officials. According to the indictment, he gave Central Bank \$2,500 in cash, with a promise to return with the balance of the loss to the bank, which he did not do.

Although through his execution of his scheme to defraud, the indictment alleges, **Mahamud** attempted and intended a loss to the bank of approximately \$67,017, due to the actions of the bank it suffered only an actual loss of approximately \$4,778.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that on March 8, 2002, **Mahamud** and his wife opened a new bank account at Commerce Bank in Kansas City. On July 12, 2000, **Mahamud** allegedly made two deposits into that account using an ATM in Independence by using his bank card and PIN and manually entering the deposit amounts into the ATM computer system. A \$4,000 deposit consisted of a insufficient funds check drawn on a Commercial Federal Bank account. A \$6,000 deposit consisted of a check made payable to **Mahamud's** wife, which was later reported as being stolen and forged.

Although through his execution of the scheme to defraud, the indictment alleges, **Mahamud** attempted and intended a loss to the bank of approximately \$10,000, due to the actions of the bank, it suffered only an actual loss of approximately \$984.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Mahamud** opened a new bank account at Commerce Bank in Kansas City on Dec. 7, 2001. From Dec. 25 to Dec. 31, 2001, **Mahamud** allegedly made a series of six ATM deposits into this account, consisting of checks written on accounts that had been closed.

Although through his execution of the scheme to defraud, the indictment alleges, **Mahamud** attempted and intended a loss to the bank of approximately \$4,900, due to the actions of the bank, it suffered only an actual loss of approximately \$2,053.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Mahamud** opened a new account at County Club Bank in Kansas City on Aug. 13, 2001. On Sept. 14, 2001, **Mahamud** allegedly made an ATM deposit into this account in the amount of \$1,000, which consisted of a check drawn on an account that had been closed. Although through his execution of his scheme to defraud, the indictment alleges, **Mahamud** attempted and intended a loss to the bank of approximately \$1,000, due to the actions of the bank, it suffered no actual monetary loss.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Mahamud** opened a new account at Bank of America. On Dec. 5 and 6, 2001, **Mahamud** allegedly made a series of three ATM deposits into this account totaling \$2,100, in each case consisting of checks drawn on accounts that had been closed. Although through his execution of the scheme to defraud, the indictment alleges, **Mahamud** attempted and intended a loss to the bank of approximately \$2,100, due to the

actions of the bank, it suffered only an actual loss of approximately \$1,546.

Although through his execution of his scheme to defraud, the indictment alleges, **Mahamud** attempted and intended a total loss to the four banks of approximately \$85,017, due to the actions of those banks they suffered only an actual loss of approximately \$9,363.

Credit Card Fraud

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Mahamud** engaged in a scheme to defraud Direct Merchants Credit Card Bank in Scottsdale, Ariz.

On Oct. 17, 2002, **Mahamud** allegedly signed a contract with Yellow Cab/Metropolitan Transportation Services, Inc. (MTSI) to become an independent contract taxicab driver with that company, allowing him use of their rights to the Hyatt Regency Crown Center and Westin Crown Center hotels' taxicab stands. On Oct. 24, 2002, **Mahamud** picked up a fare – a trade show representative – from Westin Crown Center to take her to the Kansas City International Airport. Upon arriving at the airport, she paid the fare with her MasterCard, which had been issued by Direct Merchants Credit Card Bank.

Mahamud allegedly contacted her outside the terminal area and insisted on seeing her credit card again, claiming that the numbers on her card did not emboss properly. After examining the front of the card bearing the imprinted account number and the back of the card bearing the security code, **Mahamud** returned the card to her.

On Oct. 24, 2002, **Mahamud** allegedly posed as the owner of the credit card, using his home telephone to contact Western Union Financial Services. **Mahamud** allegedly used the MasterCard number without authorization in attempting to conduct three wire transfers totaling \$8,000 to the United Arab Emirates.

Count Seven of the federal indictment alleges that **Mahamud**, with intent to defraud, attempted to use an unauthorized access device to obtain money.

Count Eight of the federal indictment alleges that **Mahamud** falsely represented a Social Security number as being his own for the purpose of conducting the wire transfers with an unauthorized access device, when in fact that number was not the Social Security number assigned to him.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheryle L. Jeans. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow